

Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2013

Call to Order

The meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 10:00 AM on January 17, 2013 at the Capitol Education Center in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Tom Burch, Jane Chandler, Mike Hammons for Randy Coe, Marilyn Coffey, Paula Goff, Tracy Haddix, Beth Jurek for Audrey Haynes, Cindy Heine, Terry Holliday, Rick Hulefeld, Robin Herring for Marybeth Jackson, Joe Meyer, Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Joe Roberts, Nicki Patton Rowe, Bill Scott, Anna Shepherd, Sandy Fawbush for Ruth Ann Shepherd, June Widman and Executive Director Terry Tolan.. The following members were not present: Tom Buford, Ben Cundiff, Tommy Floyd, Amy Hood Hooten, Lacey McNary, Aubrey Nehring, and LaQuandra Nesbitt.

Introductions

Chair Rick Hulefeld introduced the newest members of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood. Amanda Flanary is the CECC Coordinator and Rob Haynes is the Community and Family Engagement Coordinator. Secretary Joe Meyer gave a brief history of the Capitol Education Center, explaining that the building was renovated to create a space for elementary school students who come to visit the Capitol.

Approval of the November 2012 Minutes

On motion of Cindy Heine, second by Tom Burch, the minutes of the November 2012 meeting were approved.

Early Childhood Data Profile

Chair Rick Hulefeld introduced the work of partners, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood (GOEC) and the P-20 Collaborative, by explaining that the newly available Data Profile offers accountability for the work that is being done in early childhood in Kentucky. Brigitte Blom Ramsey shared the history of this exciting endeavor into tracking the success of Kentucky's children. KDE will release screener data by district, but the GOEC will release a Data Profile by county, which will present the opportunity to compare data across the state, and also offer the opportunity to track longitudinal data in the future. The specific data pieces that are included on the Data Profile were chosen based upon the possibility that action could and would be taken because of the data provided. Suggestions made by ECAC members after review of the Data Profile include: adding Early Head Start data, including trend data in the future, adding children living below 200% FPL and explaining that Public Preschool includes more than just four year olds who meet the income eligibility requirements. There was much discussion surrounding the importance of the Data Profile. This is the first time the ECAC has had this kind of data in this convenient a format available to them. The Data Profile will be available across the Commonwealth, allowing local communities to act on data and see the results of their actions in the coming years. Marilyn Coffey gave wonderful insight

into her community's plan to use the Data Profile, which includes a 5 year plan, advocating with local government officials and state legislators and sharing this information with different groups that may not already be involved with early childhood. Rick Hulefeld thanked Commissioner Holliday for implementing the universal Kindergarten screener for the 2013-2014 school year. This accomplishment is no small feat and without a universal screener, complete data would not be available. The Data Profile is set to be released at the same time that the Community Early Childhood Council Request for Applications is released at the beginning of March.

2011/2012 KIDS Now Evaluation

Jennifer Grisham-Brown, the faculty director of a 4 STAR Rated, NAECE accredited childcare based at the University of Kentucky (UK), presented the KIDS Now Evaluation research done by UK. Previously, the KIDS Now evaluation has been a longitudinal study on the state of early childhood education, but this year, the study looked at the quality differences between Public Preschool, Head Start Programs and 3 or 4 STAR Rated Childcare Centers. The results of the study included that there were no statistically significant differences between the three different environments, all of which Kentucky considers to be high quality learning environments. Recommendations made by the researchers were: to continue supporting the PD career lattice because teachers with higher education levels positively correlate with child outcomes; instructional strategies need to include important pre-literacy skills and the CLASS domain of instructional support, which highlights the importance of language modeling; and that future studies should include the relationship between parent and teacher perceptions of school readiness and the effect on child outcomes. The next KIDS Now Evaluation will follow children out of the three different high quality learning environments into Kindergarten. Chair Rick Hulefeld pointed out that it is encouraging to know that the KIDS Now Evaluation supports the finding of the pilot of the Brigance Kindergarten Screener that children in Kentucky are ready in social emotional domains but have work to do in cognitive domains. This KIDS Now Evaluation will be available electronically on the GOEC website and CECCs will be able to use this data in conjunction with the Data Profile to further inform their projects in local communities across the state.

Executive Director's Report

Terry Tolan reminded the ECAC of the work that has been accomplished in the past year since its inception, including highlighting the work of each work group of the ECAC. One of the major accomplishments is the implementation of the universal Kindergarten screener. The "time is right" to build public will around early childhood education because the ECAC now has the data, the communication plan and the support of the Governor to do so. ECAC members will be sent an electronic survey asking their opinion about the ECAC's next steps.

Conclusion

The meeting was adjourned eight minutes early at 11:52 AM. The next ECAC meeting will be hosted by the Reggio Emilia Exhibit in Henderson, KY from 10 AM to Noon (CST) on March 21, 2013.